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Subject: USS Lead - Weekly update 1/15/2016
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USS Lead Weekly Update – 1/15/2016

The USS Lead project team is focusing on office work to finish up what's been done so far.
Here's where we stand on 1/15:

1. Zone 3 metrics [no change, other than one new access agreement]:

∇ 478 properties in Zone 3

∇ 339 sampled (plus 4 that don't need to be sampled because RI data is sufficient)

∇ 7 with access that have not been sampled

∇ 119 with no access

∇ 9 access denied

2. Properties that "do not exist": Some ten property addresses for which we have not obtained access were flagged as "do not exist" by the East Chicago Department of Housing Development. SulTRAC is reviewing these locations in the field to ascertain a better way to identify these properties than the addresses originally provided by the municipality.

3. The project team had a semi-monthly call on Thursday 1/14 (moved forward because of the MLK Holiday on Monday). The group discussed design issues noted during the field visit on 12/23, as follows:

∇ Surface slope towards homes – although the existing topography of properties may create drainage issues, these are preexisting issues that will not be corrected in designs or specifications; the remediation contractor may or may not choose to address these issues during site remediation. (A photo illustrating surface sloping toward a house to illustrate the issue is attached.)

∇ Drip zones beneath trees – The specifications will indicate that soil beneath trees will be removed to the extent practical, without damaging the root structure of the tree. The specifications will indicate that trees greater than 4-inches in diameter should be preserved, but will leave open the option of replacement with equivalent tree based on field conditions.

∇ Wheelchair ramps and wooden steps – the group discussed the presence of wooden wheelchair ramps and steps and EPA's preference to remediate soils beneath these structures because of the temporary nature of the structures. Soils beneath more permanent engineered structures such as cement ramps, steps, and patios may be left in place. (A wooden ramp structure is also shown on the attached photo.)

4. Goodman park mound: The group discussed a mound of soil in Goodman Park between the playground and the baseball diamonds, which may have originated as a spoils pile from excavation for the nearby swimming pool. It currently acts as an attractive nuisance, providing cover for various unsavory activities, and the city has requested that Chemours consider removing the mound. The parcels that the mound sits upon were sampled recently, and SulTRAC forwarded the results of that sampling to the group. The mound parcels were sampled to 30 inches (native sand was not encountered). Soils to 18 inches exceeded cleanup criteria, soils from 18 to 30 inches did not. No deeper samples are available.

5. Vacating field office: Chemours has offered space in a Conex box to temporarily store our office equipment until remob in the spring. Parsons forwarded contact info for Keith Thompson, who is able to give us access to the Conex box. EPA is reviewing Chemours access agreement in anticipation of use of a Chemours field trailer on a day-to-day basis when sampling renews in the spring. Intermittent access to the Conex box is allowed without finalizing the access agreement.

6. Design document: SulTRAC is working on finalizing a draft design document for Zone 1, tentatively for delivery to EPA at the end of January, pending resolution of a few design questions.

7. Data reports: We continue to review the data validation reports provided by CRL for SulTRAC's samples. Because Chemours data is being used to make remedial decisions about individual properties, EPA needs to review validation information to verify that the data is suitable for such purposes. Chemours agreed to provide such information to SulTRAC for review.

8. Letters to residents [no change]: SulTRAC and EPA are finalizing the wording of letters that report sampling results to residents. After we settle on the final wording, SulTRAC will prepare draft letters for EPA review. After EPA review, we will forward to Chemours/Parsons so we are all in agreement that the letters are accurate before they get sent to the residents. We hope to send these letters to the residents/owners early in February. That's not a rigid deadline; we can take additional time if we need to.

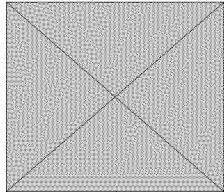
9. Fortnightly call: The group fortnightly (every two weeks) call is scheduled for Monday 2/1 at 2:00 Central. If you have a particular issue you would like to discuss, please forward it to me.

Have a great weekend, and enjoy Buddha's enlightenment day (Buddha's enlightenment under a Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya India in 589 B.C.E. is celebrated on January 15 this year)!

Thanks,
Rik

Rik Lantz, P.G., LEED-AP

Director of Environmental Services



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